The utilisation of the total refining capacity during 1995-96 was 102.3%.

Import of Oil

1447. SHRI K. M. KHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to import 65 million tonnes of oil annually;

(b) if so, the details thereof with background for such import;

(c) whether Government propose to take some steps to encourage indigenous sources of oil, to reduce imports in future; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) and (b) The quantum of oil import depends upon the over all consumption and refining capacity of the country.

(c) and (d) Steps are being taken to increase crude oil production in the country through application of improved technologies, development of new fields, additional development of existing fields and by inviting foreign and private capital in the upstream sector.

Modern Drainage Scheme for Elluru and Tadepalligudem Towns in Andhra Pradesh

1448. SHRI YERRA NARYANA-SWAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any specific request has been made by the Andhra Pradesh Government for financial assistance for modern drainage scheme for Eluru and Tadepalligudem towns in West Godavari district; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS & EMPLOYMENT & MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise in view of reply to part (a) above.

Subsidy for Propagation of Solar Energy

1449. SHRI JOY NADUKKARA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the amounts spent as subsidy during the last two years for propagation of production of solar energy, together with the amount spent in Kerala; and

(b) whether Government propose to extend the subsidy scheme, now available to gobar gas plants, to industrial units which instal such gas plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER & MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALA-CHARI): (a) An amount of Rs. 45.06 crores has been spent during the last two years under the programmes being implemented by the Ministry for the propagation and utilisation of solar energy in the country including an amount of Rs. 2.887 crores spent in the State of Kerala.

(b) Yes, Sir. The Government is already providing central subsidy to industrial units who are installing gobar gas plants. The subsidy for installation of gobar gas plants namely community, institutional and night soil based biogas plants would continue to be provided for such industrial units during current year also.